

Harrington Park Recreation Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.

Chairman's Announcement

In compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of the scheduled meeting was made. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center. Copies have been mailed to the BERGEN RECORD, SUBURBANITE, and THE NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS. A copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies have been mailed to individuals requesting the same.

2. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
(CD) Charles DeGruccio (chairman)		X
(LC) Lynne Cappelmann		X
(TD) Thomas Donnelly		X
(PK) Patrick (Kelly) Kramer	X	
(MS) Matthew Saland	X	
(AP) Ashely Plescia	X	

ALSO PRESENT:

(CL) Carolyn Lee, Secretary

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Welcome New Member (Robert Hwang)

The Recreation Commission members welcomed him to the commission. Robert Hwang was sworn in.

b. Approval of Minutes (August 21, 2019)

Approval of August 21, 2019 minutes	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
(CD) Charles DeGruccio (chairman)						X
(LC) Lynne Cappelmann						X
(TD) Thomas Donnelly						X
(PK) Patrick (Kelly) Kramer		X	X			
(MS) Matthew Saland			X			
(AP) Ashely Plescia	X		X			
(RH) Robert Hwang					X	

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public attended the meeting.

5. UPDATES

a. Finance and Budget

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CL said it seems like Recreation did well on town day, but did not have the exact numbers. Members would like to invite KJ to the next meeting to understand the budget and explain why credit cards or other electronic options can't be used to pay for the sport registration. CL mentioned that they are working on using credit cards.

b. Field Requests

A. Updates

I. Raiders football and cheer – Highland Field (Aug.12 – Sept.2)

The Raiders are still using Pondside for practices for the younger kids. No games have been played there.

c. School Coordination

A. Indoor Soccer & Basketball – Billing

JC was going to talk to Dr. Fried if there would be any changes to billing with the town taking over soccer.

B. Soccer Goals – Pondside

TD sent an email from the previous organizers of Rec Soccer about broken goals at the school. They offered the school the soccer goals at Pondside, but the school wanted written permission to take the goals. After research, the goals were purchased by the Recreation Commission when Pondside field was constructed and not by Rec Soccer. In an email, LT wrote that Rec Soccer does not have enough goals and can use Pondside as another soccer location. The goals should not be given to the HP School because the town needs them. There was discussion about AYSO.

d. Sports Coordination

A. Soccer

- As the first season that the Recreation Commission is managing Rec Soccer, the timing was off. The rosters were distributed late and the some initial games were scheduled without a practice.
- Soccer trainers – Speed Soccer is paid to train the kids during practices because of the lack of volunteers. The kids are not learning their roles and this has been discussed with trainers. AP suggested there should be a paper trail of the number of trainers that are allocated for the practices since there was one trainer for 4 teams at one time. AP tried to work with the trainer and recommended what the kids should know and what to work on, but the trainer was not responsive. AP asked LT not to have the trainer attend her practice sessions. AP was not sure if LT expressed their concerns to Speed Soccer or changed the schedule. MS will reach out to LT will discuss what should be done with the trainers to help improve the skills and understanding of the sport for the kids. AP believes there are enough volunteers to manage the practices and may not need the trainers to teach the kids the rules of the games. The older kids may need trainers for skill building. It was suggested to have the trainers sign in. The members were

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not aware of the contract fee or amount. There was discussion about the high number of club teams available.

- Club Soccer – In past meetings, the Recreation Commission members agreed that we will “take a page” from the local towns. Other towns require their club player to play Rec. There was a discussion about Rec vs Club. The Recreation Commission members said that we need this in place. AP was told that this was put in place by NVSC, but parents who have kids in NVSC were not aware. Demarest must show proof of Rec registration and show the practice schedule. HP Rec would like NVSC to get on board with the level of other towns that require to join Rec if they join club. AP said that LT had a couple of families come and ask for refunds because they did not feel they must join Rec to play in club soccer. Other towns, the clubs are on board. For Demarest, the club practices are Monday and Wednesday. The Rec practices are Tuesday and Thursday. The girls can practice with the Rec team for more practice, but the Rec games take precedence. The games usually are not at the same time. There seems to be some push back. Rec can allow the club kids to skip the Rec practices if they are practicing with club.
- Northern Valley Soccer Club – NVSC has not paid for field use. Recreation will continue to let NVSC to use the fields, if they add HP to the list of towns that requires Rec. Recreation would like a roster of the HP players in NVSC. The members agree that the program needs to be revamped. AP & LC will reach out to Rob Jaeger to the next meeting or have a separate meeting with LT.
- Soccer Coach Volunteers – KK noted that baseball had a meeting where the parents signed up to volunteer. They agreed that it makes a difference to have face-to-face meetings. Although the online registration from includes volunteering, the message may not get to all the parents who may want to volunteer. Next year, there should be a meeting for soccer as well. KK said he will go through the Rutgers training but be a floater volunteer coach if needed.

e. Town Programs

A. Town Day (Sept. 7, 2019)

I. Insurance for bouncy rides

No insurance companies wanted to cover insurance for bouncy rides/inflatables. Next year a waiver should be signed when a ride wristband is sold. The ride company is required to have the insurance, but our JIF representative wanted a back up. The JIF does not cover inflatable rides. Fun Time signed the borough's hold harmless form. A member suggested having a waiver signed for each wristband or family. This is similar to a birthday parties for kids.

II. One day event insurance

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For the alcohol that was served, there was a one-day event insurance that was purchased. The members noted that cups were sold and beer was dispensed.

III. Review

Comments:

- Weather was great.
- Assigning tables/spaces was an issue. Next year, mark out a grid for maximum allotted space. If the vendor goes over the allot space there should be a consequence. Most spaces were assigned nonprofit town organizations and were free. The money collected for the tables, go to town improvements. Rec may want to invest in purchasing tables. It was suggested first come first serve for location.
- Inflatables should be on the field next year. It seemed crowded. This year they couldn't be in the field because of a soccer game later in the day.
- Members appreciated not having a water slide
- One of the face painters was about 15 mins late. Consider other face painters next year.
- Although it was more work to sell the food this year, it was a way to make more money for the Rec Commission.
- 300 hotdogs and 300 hamburgers were sold
- It was suggested that \$200 be in each box with all singles and \$5 bills

B. Ragamuffin (Oct. 26, 2019, 10z;00-11:30am)

CL will ask the Police Dept, DPW, Mayor, Teens for Tomorrow, Ambulance Corps and Juniors Womans Club for participation.

AP will ask the Fire Department to have the fire truck out for the kids.

Kelly will order the sugar pumpkins. The prizes were purchased last year.

CL will ask if there were any chips left from town day that we could give away at the parade.

CL asked the members to come and help with the parade.

f. Park & Playground Maintenance

i. Playground Maintenance

The slide at Highland Field has been fixed.

ii. Field Maintenance

A. School softball fields

AP said that in the spring, Rec put in a lot of money into fix the fields at the school with the agreement that the school takes precedence over Rec softball. The school agreed to maintain the school fields, but the fields are completely filled with grass. AP suggested to put the money into Highland to make an official sized softball field on Upper Highland or field 2. AP asked if it could be priced out. CL mentioned that the fields are always cleaned each year, but the fields are always filled by August.

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B. Mosquito Spray and mowing

There was a request that Highland and Pondside to be sprayed for mosquitos and mowed one more time. The fields were last sprayed just on town day.

C. Pacific Sprinklers

KK scheduled the sprinklers to be shut down for the season around Nov. 5th after soccer ends. He will co-ordinate with Mark Kiernan/DPW to meeting with Pacific Sprinklers.

D. Light Pole – Lower Highland

The light pole wire housing is bent. In the past, Recreation has asked that to be fixed, but DPW recommended a electrician for the repair.

E. Fieldhouse Roof and Door Estimate

TD and AP will get 3 estimates. CL noted that Neglia Engineering usually provides a quote for projects that require bids. There was discussion about the quote/bidding process.

F. Highland Field 5 Wooden Bleachers

CL will ask if DPW can price out fixing the wood bleachers on Field 5.

6. PROJECTS

a. Grant Update

The grant is secured and was approved in February 2019. It seems like a long process. The members asked if the project will be completed by Town Day 2020. Members would like the picnic benches to be replaced.

We will wait until JC returns for the next steps.

7. OTHER ITEMS

a. Highland Field basketball courts

There was discussion about the surface and lights for the lower basketball court and the lack of spectator viewing area for upper court.

b. Community Development Grants – suggestions by October 6th

From and ADA perspective:

- Highland Field for a swing
- paving parking spots to make it easier for wheelchair access to the playground or path from the parking lot
- provide ramps instead of stairs in the playground

CL will email Ann Bistriz the ideas

c. JIF

There was a meeting last week. No updates.

d. Rutgers SAFETY Training

Members suggested having a Rutgers Volunteer SAFETY training session in HP on a Wednesday in November with the exception of the day before Thanksgiving. AP

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believes that the session will be booked. Cost is \$35 for the material and \$200 for the instructor. CL will contact Rutgers on availability of instructors.

Vote to schedule Rutger's Safety training for a Wednesday in November in HP.

Motion: AP Second: KK

In favor, all said "aye".

8. ADJOURN

Motion: AP Second: MS

In favor, all said "aye".

Meeting closed at 9:38pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is October 16, 2019 at 8pm.